

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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February 24, 2006

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**MAYOR AND "GREEN TEAM" HIGHLIGHT FIRST YEAR  
OF GET GREEN COLUMBUS INITIATIVES**

(Columbus) After a year, Mayor Michael B. Coleman's Get Green Columbus initiative is already getting results as the City works to improve air quality, water quality, recycling and to spur "Green" development and businesses. The campaign was announced in January of 2005, through the release of the Mayor's "Green Memo" which put forward new policies and goals for environmental stewardship in Columbus.

**"While I am pleased to see how much we have accomplished in such a short period of time, we still have a lot of work to do to position our community as a national green leader," said Mayor Coleman. "We've set high goals, and we are working hard to encourage residents, businesses and community partners to do more to protect our air and water, to recycle at home and at work, and to create new jobs with environmental products."**

To assist the City in the implementation of the Green Memo, Mayor Coleman created the "Green Team," comprised of 35 experts from the business community, environmental community, local municipalities and neighborhood leaders. Working in conjunction with the City's Environmental Steward, Michael Schwarzwald, the Green Team is co-chaired by David Brehm, an architect for the Design Group, and Meera Parthasarathy, executive director of the Columbus Green Building Forum.

**"Meera and I were excited to learn of the new initiatives and are confident the Green Team will be an asset to implementing the Mayor's vision," said Brehm. "From the Whittier Peninsula to the Lazarus Building, Columbus has a real opportunity to distinguish itself as a leader in the green community."**

Additional accomplishments from the past year include:

- A Mayoral executive order that established a new city-wide anti-idling policy for the City's fleet of vehicles
- New policies to encourage recycling in City buildings through a contract for the collection, sale and recycling of all mixed office products
- 170 in-home assessments of indoor air quality by the Health Department
- Numerous future City facilities will incorporate green practices into design and construction
- 850 new recyclers signed up in 2005 for the Blue Bag program, diverting nearly 100 tons of material from the landfill

- Code changes drafted to encourage the selection of environmentally-preferable products and services

[Click here to read the full Get Green Summary](#)

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